

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 7, 2007

SUBJECT:

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, COME TO THE PODIUM AND GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION

Submitted at Meeting – Newspaper article by Chris Christoff and written comments by Tom McGowan

Minutes:

MAYOR GOODMAN advised those in the audience who are homeless that City staff is available to provide information and assistance.

CHRIS CHRISTOFF referred to a newspaper article regarding human trafficking in Las Vegas and commended COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN for her interest in this situation. These alleged massage businesses and their practices are a disgrace and it is everyone's fault that this has not been stopped. He cannot understand why it has not been addressed over the last 36 months and has now become a national news story. All these businesses should go through a relicensing process and an investigation to end the activity. MAYOR GOODMAN stated that the City has 67 active massage licenses.

MICHAEL LEE stated that he is homeless and writes for a new homeless publication. He was given temporary assistance for himself and his companion, but the Council collectively has failed 14,000 people. COUNCILMAN REESE has yet to respond positively with regard to Circle Park. JOE SACCO was arrested for helping the homeless. MR. LEE thanked MAYOR GOODMAN for his recent efforts to provide help to the homeless. MAYOR GOODMAN responded that he has not seen significant success. MR. LEE encouraged MAYOR GOODMAN to continue. He told COUNCILMAN WEEKLY that Ward 5 continues to suffer. COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN is the only one who has taken the time to listen and give the homeless hope. He asked the rest of the Council to follow her example.

FRED DAY explained that he came to Las Vegas seeking a new life and ended up homeless. He explained that the Salvation Army set criteria even to get some clothes in order to job hunt. He is trying to get off the streets but that requires identification (ID). He thanked the Council for the assistance they have provided. MAYOR GOODMAN encouraged him to follow through with the assistance. Often the process is started and then the individual does not complete the process. If staff does not follow through, MAYOR GOODMAN requested that MR. DAY let him know.

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RASHAN JOSHUA COLLINS, homeless advocate, reported that great things are happening in the Frank Wright Plaza. He provided several numbers for contact by those interested in helping or receiving help. There are so many issues facing people, creating an oppressive situation. He thanked those providing the vouchers for the homeless. He encouraged the Council to come and eat with the homeless at the Plaza to send a powerful message of intent.

JOHN BROWN, a homeless advocate, expressed his appreciation for the work the City is doing to help the homeless, such as extra vouchers for work cards and assistance with ID. People should stop opposing each other and instead work together to improve things even more. He is currently staying at St. Vincent.

DOROTHY BARNES repeated her complaints that she is not allowed on Nellis Air Force Base. She is being disrespected.

TOM McGOWAN presented a newspaper article about the funeral service for a Las Vegas entertainer. He pointed out that the Mayor and Council did not attend the funeral. As Mayor, he will make sure that the names of all deserving Las Vegas entertainers will be recognized and remembered. He submitted his written comments for the record.

TED RUSSELL explained his anger over a referenced newspaper article. He wrote a column; he and Downtown Las Vegas have been badly used. Many of the development and expansion ideas for Las Vegas were his. It now seems that he was blocked from information needed for his articles, especially regarding the Streamline Towers. His patience has been exhausted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

